

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. REID, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 2586. A bill to reduce the backlog in the processing of immigration benefit applications and to make improvements to infrastructure necessary for the effective provision of immigration services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NICKLES (for himself, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 2587. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify the excise tax on heavy truck tires; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNETT:

S. 2588. A bill to assist the economic development of the Ute Indian Tribe by authorizing the transfer to the Tribe of Oil Shale Reserve Numbered 2, to protect the Colorado River by providing for the removal of the tailings from the Atlas uranium milling site near Moab, Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, and Mr. TORRICELLI):

S. 2589. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require periodic cost of living adjustments to the maximum amount of deposit insurance available under the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. VOINOVICH:

S. 2590. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Comprehensive Environment Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ROBB, Mr. L. CHAFEE, Mr. BRYAN, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 2591. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax credits for alternative fuel vehicles and retail sale of alternative fuels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BAYH, and Mr. EDWARDS):

S. 2592. A bill to establish a program to promote access to financial services, in particular for low- and moderate-income persons who lack access to such services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. STEVENS:

S. 2593. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. ALLARD:

S. 2594. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to contract with the Mancos Water Conservancy District to use the

Mancos Project facilities for impounding, storage, diverting, and carriage of non-project water for the purpose of irrigation, domestic, municipal, industrial, and any other beneficial purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. THOMPSON (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 2595. A bill to amend chapter 7 of title 31, United States Code, to authorize the General Accounting Office to take certain personnel actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 2596. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage a strong community-based banking system; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GORTON (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 2597. A bill to clarify that environmental protection, safety, and health provisions continue to apply to the functions of the National Nuclear Security Administration to the same extent as those provisions applied to those functions before transfer to the Administration; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HATCH, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. ROBB, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2598. A bill to authorize appropriations for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. CRAIG, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GORTON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DEWINE, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2599. A bill to amend section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GORTON (for himself, Mr. MOYNIHAN, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. Res. 308. A resolution congratulating the International House on the occasion of its 75th anniversary; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. REID, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 2586. A bill to reduce the backlog in the processing of immigration benefit applications and to make improvements to infrastructure necessary for the effective provision of immigration services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

IMMIGRATION SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2000

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing bipartisan legislation that, if enacted, will enable the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to cut through and eventually eliminate the unacceptably long backlogs in its processing of applications for naturalization, adjustment of status, and other immigration benefits.

I am pleased that Senators ABRAHAM, JEFFORDS, DEWINE, LEAHY, REID, MOYNIHAN, MIKULSKI, GRAHAM, and DURBIN have joined me as original cosponsors of this important bill.

All of us have heard the horror stories of the long delays in processing naturalization and immigration applications. What was once a 6-month process has now become a 3- to 4-year ordeal.

The "Immigration Services and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2000," which I am introducing today, would provide the Immigration and Naturalization Service with the direction and resources it needs to reduce the current immigration backlogs and hold it accountable to get the job done.

It is unacceptable that millions of people who have followed our nation's laws, made outstanding contributions to our nation, and paid the requisite fees have had to wait months—and in too many cases, years—to obtain the immigration services they need. The enormous delays in processing have had a negative impact on the reunification of spouses and minor children, and on businesses seeking to employ essential workers to help keep them globally competitive.

The fact is, there are many victims of an agency that is in dire need of a change in the way it does business. Today, it has become all too clear that the INS needs to re-engineer its adjudication process, which will require both additional resources and strong congressional direction and oversight.

The "Immigration Services and Infrastructure Improvement Act" would enable millions of law-abiding residents, immigrants, and businesses, who have played by the rules and paid fees to the INS, to have their applications processed in a timely manner.

This bill evolved from discussions with immigration advocates, the business community, State and local leaders, and the Administration. Specifically, this legislation would do three things.

First, it would create a separate "Immigration Services and Infrastructure Improvement Account" ("Account") and authorize such sums as may be necessary to fund it.

This account would permit the INS to fund across several fiscal years infrastructure improvements, including additional staff, computer records